

XX. *The Characters of Two Species of Oxalis.* By Richard Anthony
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IN making a catalogue of the plants in my garden, having had lately occasion to investigate several *Oxalides*, the result of my enquiries respecting two species, which many botanists have thought only varieties, may possibly be interesting enough to be laid before the Linnean Society.

OXALIS AMBIGUA. TAB. 23. f. 4.

O. caule repente; foliis 3-natis; petiolis *semiteretibus, exstipulatis*; laminis emarginatis: corollæ laciniis *obovatis integerrimis*: stylis altitudine filamentorum longiorum, *patulis*.

Oxalis corniculata. Berg. *Phyt.* v. 2. p. 17. *cum Ic.* *Oxalis corniculata.* Muller, in *Fl. Dan. fasc.* 15. p. 4. f. 873. *Oxalis stricta.* Linn. *Sp. Pl. ed.* 2. p. 624. *Oxys lutea americana.* Dill. *Hort. Elth.* p. 299. t. 221. f. 4.

THOUGH the primary stems of this plant in some degree answer to the definition which Linné has given of the term
strictus,

strictus, yet the branches, which break out near the root, are constantly creeping, as in the following—There is, however, even in this respect, an obvious difference between them to the eye, but it is not easy to be concisely expressed in botanic language; and fortunately there is no necessity to have recourse to it for a specific character.

OXALIS PUSILLA. TAB. 23. f. 5.

O. caule repente: foliis 3-natis; petiolis *teretiufculis*, *basi stipulatis*; laminis emarginatis: corollæ laciniis *obcuneiformibus*, apice *erosulis*: stylis vix altitudine filamentorum longiorum, fastigiatis.

Oxalis corniculata. *Linn. Sp. Pl. ed. 2. p. 623.* *Trifolium acetosum corniculatum.* *Baub. Pin. p. 330.* *Oxys flavo flore.* *Cluf. Hist. Pl. lib. 6. p. 248. cum Ic.*

THE older botanists, regarding this plant as a species of *Trifolium*, gave it the specific epithet of *corniculatum*, from the figure of the seed-vessel, which in the present improved state of the science is very indefinite, being equally applicable to the whole genus. Above are all the synonyms I dare at present say certainly belong to it. It is perennial, but liable to be destroyed by severe frost, and always of much dwarfer growth than the former. I received the seeds of it from *Spain*, and it is also found wild occasionally in *Devonshire*; a certain proof of the mildness of that climate, where many other southern plants occur, such as *Pinguicula lusitanica*, *Sibthorpia europæa*, *Lobelia urens*, and *Erica vagans*. This circumstance, together with that of the *Arbutus Uedo* and *Andromeda Dabeocii*, which last grows also in *Teneriffe*, being found wild in *Ireland*, seems to strengthen the conjecture, that some violent concussion of the

globe has formerly removed these plants from warmer latitudes. The soil in which the above-mentioned plants severally are found, and the structure of their seeds, render it exceeding improbable that the sea should have transported them. To future geologists, who may have other data to ascertain so very doubtful a matter, possibly the facts recorded by the humble botanists of the present age may be of no small consequence, and serve, among many others, to rescue their labours from that reproach of inutility which is too often thrown upon them by those who are foolish.